Arizona
Department of Education

The Grader

Dear Community,

The Accountability and Research & Evaluation units have been merged to form the new Accountability & Research team! We are very excited about this union and hope it will help us better serve you and your schools. Read on to learn more about our new team members and all they bring to our newly established unit.

The State Board of Education finalized the Accountability System model for traditional schools last Monday, April 24th. ADE will be rolling out guidance and information as soon as it becomes available to us. This "mini" edition of our newsletter serves as a quick update on several items. Look out for future editions of *The Grader* and check our website regularly.

We will continue to keep all stakeholders informed during this transitional period. As always, don't hesitate to contact us with any questions you may have.
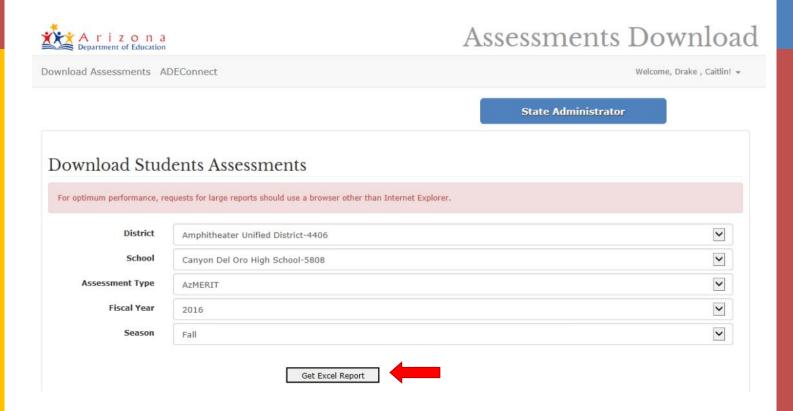
- Accountability and Research

In This Issue

Assessment Download Application

The new Assessment Download Application is now available in ADEConnect. LEAs now have the ability to download historical AzMERIT and AIMS data for transfer students. This report is "live" and will refresh with the most updated list of currently enrolled students each time it is run. To access the report:

1) For optimal performance when downloading large files, use a browser other than Internet Explorer
2) Select "ADEConnect" from the main page
3) Select "Accountability" (If you do not have "Accountability" as an option, you will need to request that permission from your entity administrator)
4) Select "Assessment Data Download" about half-way down the page
5) Enter your district, school, assessment, fiscal year, and season then select "Get Excel Report"

Summer Withdrawal and Year-End Code Updates

There have been recent changes to [removed and reinstated year-end codes](#) that will result in students failing integrity. Both the "SA" (Still Enrolled—Assessment) and "SE" (Still Enrolled—Met No Requirements) year-end codes have been removed. Since students are no longer required to pass the state assessment in order to graduate, these codes are no longer valid. Students with these codes will fail integrity. Instead they should be coded using either "SC" (Still Enrolled—Course of Study) or "C" (Completers) year-end codes.

[As of April 13, 2017](#), the "R" (Retained) will no longer pass integrity for 12th grade students. Seniors should be coded as either "SC" (Still Enrolled—Course of Study) or "C" (Completers). Further information on summer withdrawal and year-end status codes can be found [here](#). Contact us with any questions at Achieve@azed.gov or (602) 542-5151.

AzMERIT Data Embargo

Spring 2017, school-level AzMERIT and AIMS Science data is embargoed as it has been for the last two years and as AIMS was in previous years. Schools are not allowed to share aggregated AzMERIT nor AIMS Science results prior to ADE's public release of the data. The date for ADE's public release will be in a future edition of *The Grader*. Keep in mind that the initial release of AzMERIT results are for state reporting purposes only and do not reflect accountability rules (i.e. FAY only, unadjusted proficiency rates, etc.).

Alternative Schools Status List

Due to the extended window for Alternative School Status Application, the list will be released by June 1 this year. Individual schools will be notified prior to the list being posted on our   website. Please email Achieve@azed.gov with any questions.

Meet Our New Team Members

Accountability & Research now boasts four new team members. A brief introduction for our additional team members can be found below.

Forster Okoli holds a Master's degree in Agricultural Resource Economics with specialization in Econometrics. He also holds a Master of Public Administration degree. Both degrees are from the University of Arizona. Mr. Okoli joined Arizona Department of Education in June 2005 as a Data Analyst and Research Specialist for the Exceptional Students Services unit. His responsibilities in this position include conducting different forms of data analysis, writing reports and making presentations on academic related data for students with disabilities. He has attended and presented at both local and national conferences on issues related to academic outcomes for students with disabilities.

M.H. Jayanthi joined the Research and Evaluation unit at ADE in December of 2008 as a data analyst. Jayanthi has a Bachelor of Science in Physics, Chemistry, and Math. In her free time she enjoys gardening, yoga, and music.

Nita Gentry joined ADE in February 2015 initially as an assistant to the Director of the then newly devised Special Projects unit. In November of 2015, she transitioned as the Office Manager to the Research and Evaluation team. Prior to joining ADE, she worked for the Arizona Senate as Executive Assistant to Senator Leah Landrum Taylor. Nita attended what is now Woodbury University, Burbank, CA studying Interior Design, which happens to be one of her passions, minoring in Psychology. Nita will be responsible for the majority of administrative duties for the new Accountability & Research unit.

Dr. Yating Tang joined the Research and Evaluation team as a Program Evaluator in September of 2011. Dr. Tang brings an extensive background in research methodologies and has designed and conducted program evaluations across the agency including Migrant Education, School Improvement, and the Office of Indian Education and was key member on the development of ADE's model for principal and teacher evaluations. Dr. Tang was promoted to Director of Program Evaluation in September 2016 and has always had a devotion to children. Before coming to the U.S to pursue her PhD in Teaching and Learning from US Santa Barbara, Yating was a kindergarten teacher in Taiwan.

FAQs

Will AIMS Science and AIMS A Science results be embargoed as well?

The embargo in the past has applied to AIMS Mathematics and Reading results used in A-F Accountability determinations. Since AIMS and AIMS A Science are both included in the new accountability system, the 2017 AIMS Science and AIMS A Science data will also be embargoed.

Is student-level data embargoed?

Schools have always been able to use their assessment data in order to make educational decisions on behalf of students and/or programs.